

德皇國際重裁判所

並木利加台衆國其他

荒不貞夫其他

宣誓供述書

其述言 吉田 茂

自分議我國ニ行ハルル方式ニ從ヒ元ツ別紙ノ通り宣誓ヲ爲シタル上次ノ  
如ク供述致シマス

一 私に昭和二十年（一九四五年）九月十七日から同二十一年（一九四六年）五月二十二日迄幣原内閣の外務大臣を致した後、同年五月二十二日から翌二十二年（一九四七年）五月二十四日迄内閣総理大臣を致しました。是より先昭和十一年（一九三六年）四月一日から同十四年（一九三九年）三月二十日まで英駐在大使、又昭和三年（一九二八年）七月二十四日から同五年（一九三〇年）十一月二十六日迄外務次官でありました。私は明治三十九年（一九〇六年）十一月十五日外交官となり爾後三十三年に且り外交官で居りましたが、この間私より数年遅れて外務省に入れた白鳥敬夫氏と相知る機会を得たのであります。二 辯護御書證二九一九號の書翰は白鳥敬夫氏が昭和二十年（一九四五年）十二月十日附を以て果敢拘置所から自分に宛英文を以て認めた手紙の誤なき寫であることを證認致します。三 台書面はそれより先同年十一月二十六日白鳥氏が入所する直前私と會見し、敗戦後の日本を如何に建直すべきか、新憲法を如何に制定すべきか、日本宗教の問題、天皇制の問題、戦争抛棄の問題等に付て、種々口頭を以て意見を述べ之を時の幣原首相にも傳達方を申出たので、種々角も善き物にして送て呉れるやうとの私の要求に答いて書かれたものであつて、私は白鳥氏の要請を容れ當時首相にも寫を一部手交し

ました。

四 戦時中白鳥氏が発表した意見を熟知する人々の言に依れば、本警翰の内容は何等かの形に於て白鳥氏が既に屢々述べて居た所から自然に流出すべき結論であつて、敗戦の衝撃に基く一時の立場ではないとのこととであります。生一本な白鳥氏の性格を知悉する私として右の見方に全く同意する次第であります。

昭和二十二年（一九四七年）十二月四日 於東京

供 述 者 吉 田 茂

右ハ當立會人ノ面前ニア宣誓シ且ツ署名捺印シタルコトヲ證明シマス

同 日 於 同 所

立 會 人

極東國際軍事裁判所辯護人

廣 田 洋 二



Per Noo # 2920

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THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL  
FOR THE FAR EAST, TOKYO, JAPAN.

U.S.A. ET al  
-VS-  
ARAKI, SADA0, et al

Sworn Deposition (Translation)

Deponent, YOSHIDA, Shigeru

Having duly first sworn an oath as on attached sheet and in accordance with the procedure followed in my country I hereby depose as follows:

(1) I was Prime Minister of Japan, from 22 May 1946 to 24 May 1947, after I was Foreign Minister from 17 Sept. 1945 to 22 May 1946, in the Shidehara Cabinet. I have been Japanese Ambassador to Great Britain, from 1 April 1936 to 20 May 1939, and Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, from 24 July 1928 to 26 Nov. 1930. I was in the Foreign Service of the Japanese Government altogether thirty-three years beginning from 15 Nov. 1906; and, while I was in the Service, I had opportunities to be acquainted with Mr. SHIRATORI, Toshio, who joined the the same service several years ater I did.

(2) I hereby testify that the copy of a letter, which is the Defense Document 2919, is a correct copy of the letter which the accused SHIRATORI, Toshio, wrote in English in the Sugamo Prison and caused to be delivered to me, dated as 10 December 1945. I recall that I received the letter early in 1946 while I was Foreign Minister.

(3) The circumstances under which the said letter was written were as follow

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Immediately before SHIRATORI went to the Sugamo Prison on 26 November 1945, he interviewed with me and stated orally about his opinions on how to rehabilitate Japan after the defeat, how to legislate the new Constitution the questions of religions in Japan, the question of Tenno institution, the questions of renunciation of war and so forth, and requested me to convey the substance to the then Prime Minister Baron SHIDEHARA.

I, thereupon, required him to put it into writing and send it to me, which he, in due time, did in the form of the said letter. In compliance with SHIRATORI's wishes, I handed a copy of the letter forthwith to the Prime Minister Baron SHIDEHARA.

(4) According to those who are familiar with the opinions expressed by SHIRATORI during the last War, the thoughts enunciated in the said letter are taken as the conclusion most naturally to be derived from what SHIRATORI had been stating repeatedly prior to that date, and not as the stand which the shock of the defeat made him to take accidentally or extemporaneously. I fully concur with the above views, as one who knows SHIRATORI's genuine and sincere character.

On this Fourth day of December 1947.

at Tokyo.

Deponent, /S/ YOSHIDA, Shigeru (seal)

I, C.B. CAUDLE, hereby verify that the above statement was sworn by the deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this witness.

On the same date, at Tokyo.

Witness /S/ YOJI HIROTA

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OATH

In accordance with my conscience I swear to tell the whole truth  
withholding nothing, and adding nothing.

/s/ YOSHIDA, Shigeru (seal)